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Message Text

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73
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DOTE-00 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03

EUR-25 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /162 W
---------- 050904
R 061128Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4363
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY ROME

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REF: A. LAGOS 4857 B. LAGOS 48087

SUMMARY: NIGERIAN RAIL TRAFFIC REMAINS AT STANDSTILL IN LAGOS AND WESTERN STATES, DESPITE MANAGEMENT WILLINGNESS MEET UNION'S ECONOMIC DEMANDS. REMAINING PROBLEM CENTERS ON UNION ATTEMPT SET COMPANY PERSONNEL POLICY ON TRANSFERS AND PROMOTIONS. DROUGHT RELIEF SUPPLIES STILL MOVING THROUGH PORT HARCOURT AND THERE APPEARS ONLY REMOTE POSSIBILITY STRIKE MIGHT SPREAD THERE.END SUMMARY.

1. RAIL STRIKE CONTINUES TO AFFECT RAIL TRAFFIC IN LAGOS AND WESTERN STATES, WITH NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION (NRC) CLAIMING STRIKE HAS HAD NO IMPACT ON TRAFFIC IN NORTHERN AND EASTERN AREAS. DURING CONCILIATION MEETING JUNE 5, MANAGEMENT AGREED MEET ALL UNION (NURF) ECONOMIC DEMANDS BUT REFUSED TO GRANT UNION DEMAND CONCERNING CENTRALIZATION OF NRC PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS (PARA 2 REF B).
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NURF LEADERS SAY THEY WILL CONTINUE DISPUTE

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UNTIL NRC AGREES CENTRALIZE STAFF MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS
IN LAGOS. NRC INTENDS ATTEMPT MOVE ONE FREIGHT TRAIN
OUT OF LAGOS JUNE 6, RISKY EFFORT WHICH COULD TEST
DEPTH RANK AND FILE SUPPORT FOR UNION DEMANDS.

2. NURF RANKS REMAIN SPLIT ON CENTRALIZATION ISSUE,
WITH UNIONS IN NORTH AND EAST UNWILLING SUPPORT MOVE
TO REESTABLISH LAGOS CONTROL OVER ALL PERSONNEL
TRANSFER AND PROMOTION DECISIONS. ACCORDING TO SOME
UNION SOURCE, SUCH A MOVE WOULD PUT YORUBAS ONCE
AGAIN IN DOMINANT POSITION THROUGHOUT NRC SYSTEM.
SOURCE REMAIN CONVINCED NRC ASSISTANT GENERAL
MANGER ALADE IS FORCE BEHIND CENTRALIZATION ISSUE
AS PRESENT DECENTRALIZED SYSTEM WEAKENS HIS POSITION
AND THREATENS HIS EFFORT TO REPLACE NRC GENERAL MANAGER.

3. COMMENT: WITH UNION IN NORTH AND EAST AGAINST
POLITICAL AND TRIBAL NATURE OF PRESENT DISPUTE,
STRIKE SEEMS UNLIKELY SPREAD TO THESE AREAS. DROUGHT
RELIEF SUPPLIES MOVING THROUGH PORT HARCOURT THEREFORE
WILL PROBABLY NOT BE AFFECTED.
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